

Message Text

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70

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01

USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 NSC-05 SS-15 CPR-01 SSC-01 /049 W

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R 220841Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 6296

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINR, JA

SUBJECT: NEW JAPANESE AMBASSADOR TO CZECHOSLOVAKI, FUMIHIKO SUZUKI

REF: TOKYO 0999

1. FOREIGN MINISTRY JANUARY 20 NAMED FUMIHIKO SUZUKI AS AMBASSADOR TO CZECHOSLOVAKIA, VICE SABURO KIMOTO. AMBASSADOR KIMOTO HAS BEEN REASSIGNED TO LIMA (REFTEL).

2. FOR MOST OF HIS CAREER, SUZUKI HAS SERVED AS AN ECONOMIC OFFICER WITH SPECIAL EXPERTISE IN INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION MATTERS. EMBASSY BELIEVES HIS APPOINTMENT REFLECTS RECENTLY HEIGHTENED JAPANESE INTEREST IN DEVELOPING EASTERN EUROPE AS A MAJOR BUYER OF PLANTS AND MACHINERY.

3. SUZUKI, 56, JOINED MOFA IN 1942. AFTER TRAINING ASSIGNMENT IN U.S. (1950), HE SERVED IN ECONOMIC BUREAU (1951-4), IN WASHINGTON (1954-6), IN THE ELITE TREATIES BUREAU (1956-8) AND ON DETAIL TO THE MINISTRY OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND INDUSTRY (1958-60). SUBSEQUENTLY, SUZUKI WAS ON THE JAPANESE DELEGATION TO TWO GATT CONFERENCES WHILE DIRECTOR OF THE 1ST INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS DIVISION OF THE ECONOMIC BUREAU (1960-62) THEN, AS 1ST SECRETARY, LATER COUNSELOR OF THE JAPANESE MISSION IN GENEVA FOR FOUR YEARS, HE WAS IN THE WORDS OF A YOUNGER MOFA COLLEAGUE, "THE KEY MAN ON THE JAPANESE TEAM" AT THE KENNEDY

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ROUND GATT NEGOTIATIONS. SUZUKI RETURNED FROM GENEVA TO THE

ECONOMIC BUREAU, SERVING AS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR (1967-70) AND DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL 1970-71). IN JANUARY 1972 HE WAS POSTED AS CONSUL GENERAL IN SYDNEY, AND RETURNED TO TOKYO 1973 TO BECOME DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE UNITED NATIONS BUREAU UNTIL LAUGUST 1975. IN THAT JOB, AND DURING HIS SUBSEQUENT ASSIGNMENT AS A MOFA COUNCILLER (A HOLDING POSITION UNTIL AN AMBASSADORSHIP BECOMES AVAILABLE,), HE HAS HAD LITTLE CONTACT WITH EMBASSY OFFICERS.

4. SUZUKI'S WIFE IS NAMED KAZUKO; THE SUZUKIS HAVE A SON, 17, AND A DAUGHTER, 9. HE IS AN AVID ART COLLECTOR.
SHOESMITH

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AMBASSADOR DESIGNATE, BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 22 JAN 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976TOKYO00998
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760025-0275
From: TOKYO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760130/aaaabahx.tel
Line Count: 73
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 TOKYO 999
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: morefirh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 14 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <14 APR 2004 by SmithRJ>; APPROVED <13 MAY 2004 by morefirh>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NEW JAPANESE AMBASSADOR TO CZECHOSLOVAKI, FUMIHIKO SUZUKI
TAGS: PINR, JA, CZ, (SUZUKI, FUMIHIKO)
To: PRAGUE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006